



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

EA

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,157	11/24/2003	Russell Rose	RS147	1156
23470	7590	07/25/2005	EXAMINER	
SRAM CORPORATION 1333 N. KINGSBURY, 4TH FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60622				BELLINGER, JASON R
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		3617		

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/707,157	ROSE ET AL.
	Examiner Jason R. Bellinger	Art Unit 3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6,9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 7,8 and 11-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 May 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20 April 2005</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 1-19 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Shinichi and Zoor. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 13 May 2005. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinichi (JP 8175453) in view of Zoor. Shinichi shows an axle assembly for mounting a wheel hub W to a vehicle frame 2. An axle 1 includes first and second ends 12 mountable to the vehicle frame 2 (at installation part 21). These ends 12 are configured to be radially deformable to secure the axle 1 to the vehicle frame. A plurality of open-ended slots 15 is disposed at the ends 12. A wedge-shaped expander element 6 is disposed proximate the ends 12 of the axle 1, and is shaped to radially deform the ends 12 of the axle 1 in response to axial displacement. The first and second ends 12 of the axle 1 is formed as a tubular body (13-14) that has first (the axially outermost

portion) and second (the axially inner portion that connects to flange portion 16 of the axle 1) ends which are mountable to the vehicle frame 2 (at installation part 21).

Shinichi does not show a lever actuator and follower assembly disposed to radially deform the ends of the tubular body (13-14). In Figures 5-6, Zoor teaches the use of a quick-release assembly including a lever actuator 13 and a follower assembly 21. The lever actuator 13 includes a cam 10 configured to axially displace the follower assembly 21 in response to pivoting of the lever actuator 13. A barrel 19 is rotatably received by the lever actuator 13, and is eccentrically disposed within the lever actuator 13 such that the cam 10 axially displaces the follower assembly 21 in response to pivoting of the lever actuator 13. The follower assembly further includes a linking member 22.

Therefore from this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the axle of Shinichi with the quick-release assembly of Zoor (minus nut 23, which is not required in Shinichi) for the purpose of allowing quick and easy installation of a wheel to the frame of a bicycle, by eliminating the need for extra tools.

The linking member 22 of Zoor would be connected to the axially outer end of the expander element of Shinichi. This would operably connect the cam 10 to the expander element 6 (of Shinichi). In the configuration shown in Figure 6 of Zoor, the follower assembly 21 would be in contact with the axial face of installation part 21 of the vehicle frame 2 of Shinichi. This would prevent the expander element 6 (which is connected to the linking member 22 of Zoor) of Shinichi from radially deforming the slotted (15) end

12 of the axle 1. Pivoting of the lever actuator 13 of Zoor in a radially upwards direction would cause axial displacement of the follower assembly 21 and the linking member 22 (to which the expander 6 of Shinichi is attached), and thus cause the expander element 6 of Shinichi to radially deform the ends of the tubular body (13-14) of the axle 1 of Shinichi. This is due to the fact that the follower assembly 21 would move axially to the right (as shown in Figure 6 of Zoor), while the linking member 22 (and the attached expander element 6 of Shinichi) would then move axially to the left deeper into the tubular body (13-14), thus radially deforming the ends 12 of the axle 1 of Shinichi and securing the axle 1 to the vehicle frame 2.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 7-8 and 11-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references are considered to show quick release assemblies for bicycle wheels. For example, Segawa shows a quick release assembly as described above.

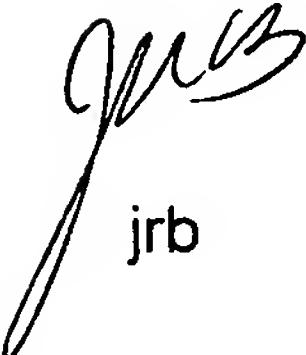
Art Unit: 3617

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason R. Bellinger whose telephone number is 703-308-6298. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs (9:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jason R Bellinger
Examiner
Art Unit 3617


jrb


S. JOSEPH MORANO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600